



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

- 1. DNR offers grant funds for city and county playground safe surfacing**
- 2. DNR database keeps materials out of landfills and in production**

DNR OFFERS GRANT FUNDS FOR CITY AND COUNTY PLAYGROUND SAFE SURFACING

MEDIA CONTACT: Tom Anderson at (515) 281-8623 or tom.anderson@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering matching grant funds for improving city and county playgrounds with recycled rubber tile surfaces.

The applications are due by Monday, Oct. 27, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Proposals will primarily be selected on a first-come first-served basis, with special consideration given to cities and counties designated as disaster areas due to tornadoes and flooding over the past summer.

The playgrounds will be surfaced with recycled rubber tiles manufactured using approximately 1 million pounds of crumb rubber derived from Iowa scrap tires. Because of its compression capabilities, the new playground surface greatly reduces injuries due to falls from play equipment and significantly improves handicapped accessibility. The recycled rubber tiles replace common playground surfacing materials like wood chips and pea gravel while decreasing maintenance costs.

A similar grant offering was made this past summer for Iowa schools. Twenty-two schools benefited from the limited grant offering and now offer safer playgrounds to their students with a built in, hands-on lesson of the value of recycling.

The DNR is contracted with Welch Products, Inc., a subsidiary of GreenMan Technologies, Inc. to supply the rubber tiles, oversee concrete pad construction and install playground surface tiles at selected city and county playgrounds across the state.

“The Department believes this type of hands-on demonstration for children and adults can show the benefits of recycling. The crumb rubber used in manufacturing these safety tiles may have originated from a scrap tire that came off of the family car,” said Tom Anderson, environmental specialist, senior with the DNR. “This closed loop recycling project hopes to increase Iowans’ awareness that what they recycle can be made into beneficial new products while at the same time reducing their environmental footprint.”

The playgrounds surfaced with the recycled rubber tiles will meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Consumer Product Safety Commission certification guidelines once installed.

For more information on the recycled rubber playground safety tiles, please visit the Welch Products, Inc website at www.welchproducts.com/NSSI or contact Tim Mahoney at 847-917-3958.

The grant application is available at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/waste/recycling/tires/index.html>

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DNR DATABASE KEEPS MATERIALS OUT OF LANDFILLS AND IN PRODUCTION

MEDIA CONTACT: Linda King at (515) 281-4876

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resource’s (DNR) Iowa Waste Exchange now offers a database to unite materials that would normally go to the landfill with businesses or organizations that are able to use the materials and keep them in production.

The database allows public users to submit excess materials or browse for available materials. After identifying a desired product, they can contact their local Iowa Waste Exchange representative to arrange for delivery.

“The DNR is dedicated to ensuring that all Iowa businesses and organizations have the tools they need to be more environmentally conscious and sustainable,” said Linda King, program manager for the Iowa Waste Exchange. “In addition to the one-on-one service provided by Iowa Waste Exchange Area Resource Specialists, the database will enable us to assist and meet the needs of even more Iowa businesses and organizations.”

The Iowa Waste Exchange is a free, confidential, non-regulatory service of the DNR with representatives to assist the public throughout the state. Representatives have diverted over 2.8 million tons of material from Iowa’s landfills, saving Iowa firms more than \$65 million in disposal fees.

To access the database, visit <http://programs.iowadnr.gov/iwe/>. For additional waste reduction and recycling resources visit www.iowadnr.gov.